

REMARKS

Claims 7-10 and 12-17 are pending in this application, of which claim 10 has been amended. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has maintained from the previous Office Action the 35 USC §102(b) rejection of claim 10 as anticipated by WO '675 (equivalent to "EP '437").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner has stated:

Regarding the rejection of claim 10, Applicant argues that WO '675 does not recite all of the limitations recited in the claim. Specifically, Applicant points to the limitation requiring the film thickness of a plated film formed on the outer surface to be equal to or less than the film thickness of a plated film formed on the inner surface (see pages 9-10 of Applicant's response). This argument is not persuasive because WO '675 teaches a thickness of $22\text{ }\mu\text{m} \pm 1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, and provides a specific example of an outer film thickness of $23\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and an inner film thickness of $22\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (see Table 6). Based on the precision of the technique, which is $\pm 1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, the outer film thickness is substantially equal to the inner film thickness. Therefore, the magnet of WO '675 anticipates the claimed magnet.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

First, claim 10 of the instant application recites a relationship between inner and outer film thicknesses which is the opposite of that disclosed in WO '675. In particular, claim 10 has been amended to recite that the thickness of the film found on the outer surface be less than the thickness of the film formed on the inner surface. In WO '675, the inner film thickness is $22\text{ }\mu\text{m} \pm 1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, while the outer film thickness is $23\text{ }\mu\text{m} \pm 1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

Further, in WO '675, there is no description of a magnet in which the variability of thickness of the plated film from portion to portion of the outer surface is equal to or less than 25%, and also the variability of thickness of the plated film from portion to portion of the inner surface is equal to or less than 25%.

Thus, the 35 USC §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 7-9 and 12-17 have been allowed.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 7-10 and 12-17, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

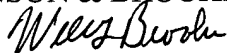
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/028,359
Response to Office Action dated November 10, 2004

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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